

## Hawaii Anti-Trafficking Task Force

The United States Department of Justice has awarded to the Department of the Attorney General a three-year grant for a multidisciplinary human trafficking task force. The purpose of the grant is to support the development of a task force to enhance state and local law enforcement efforts to identify and interdict severe forms of human trafficking; and to enhance collaboration among state and local law enforcement, social service organizations, and federal agencies in the identification of trafficking victims.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act provides for the prosecution of trafficking at the federal level. But often, state and local law enforcement personnel and service providers are the first to encounter trafficking victims. The Department of Justice has found that "without the capacity of local law enforcement agencies to work jointly with community-based social services providers and federal law enforcement to identify the perpetrators and victims of such crimes, the crimes will go undetected. Local-level policing tuned to identify victims and working collaboratively with the U.S. Attorney's Office and other federal and state agencies presents a formidable force for the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking."

The department has subgranted funds to the Globalization Research Center of the University of Hawaii to lead in the development of the task force. The department will subgrant funds to the Honolulu Police Department to train officers in identifying and responding to human trafficking.

For more information, please visit [http://www.hawaii.edu/global/projects\\_activities/trafficking.htm](http://www.hawaii.edu/global/projects_activities/trafficking.htm)